A Biblical Worldview In the Age of Apostasy

Part 6 Handout Pastor Grant Williams

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Rightly Dividing God's Unchanging Word (Truth) for a Biblical Worldview in the midst of the godless worldview causing the great apostasy (falling away from the truth) in the church. Jesus said "many" pastors, preachers and teachers would deceive "many" because they no longer believe God's Word is true. Matt 24:5

In part 5 we looked at the importance of Godly leadership that is not afraid to speak to the issues of the day by rightly dividing the Word. Not being political but Biblical with those "things" foretold that would take place at the Time of the End. The writings in the New Testament took place under the 6th Empire or Beast of Bible Prophecy from the Book of Revelation, the Roman Empire. Paul the Apostle referred to the Roman Empire as the present wicked age and World Order or Beast/Empire.

Galatians 1:1-4 AMPC

1 Paul, an apostle—[special messenger appointed and commissioned and sent out] not from [any body of] men nor by or through [a]any man, but by and through Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and God the Father, Who raised Him from among the dead—

2 And all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:

3 Grace and spiritual blessing be to you and [soul] peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah),

4 Who gave (yielded) Himself up [[b]to atone] for our sins [and [c]to save and sanctify us], i<u>n order to rescue and deliver us from this</u> <u>present wicked age and world order</u> in accordance with the will and purpose and plan of our God and Father—

Paul told the church that this world order was made up of government and religion or the liberal denominations and it will be at the Time of the End as well (Old and New Testament foretell of this joining together).

Paul the Apostle, who is no longer part of a religion told the Church I am shocked at you for seeing and hearing the truth, now leaving it, separating yourself from reading the Word, listening to Godly instruction and falling back into your old sinful ways and false teaching.

Galatians 1:6-16 AMPC

6 I am surprised and astonished that you are so quickly [d]turning renegade and deserting Him Who invited and called you [e]by the grace (unmerited favor) of Christ (the Messiah) [and that you are transferring your allegiance] to a different [even an opposition] gospel.

7 Not that there is [or could be] any other [genuine Gospel], but <u>there</u> <u>are [obviously] some who are troubling and disturbing and</u> <u>bewildering you [[f]with a different kind of teaching which they offer</u> <u>as a gospel] and want to pervert and distort the Gospel of Christ (the</u> <u>Messiah) [into something which it absolutely is not].</u>

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to and different from that which we preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

9 As we said before, so I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel different from or contrary to that which you received [from us], let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

<u>10 Now am I trying to win the favor of men, or of God? Do I seek to</u> <u>please men? If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be</u> <u>a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah).</u>

11 For I want you to know, brethren, that the Gospel which was proclaimed and made known by me is not man's gospel [a human invention, according to or patterned after any human standard].

12 For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but [it came to me] through a [direct] revelation [given] by Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

13 You have heard of my earlier career and former manner of life in the Jewish religion (Judaism), how I persecuted and abused the church of God furiously and extensively, and [with fanatical zeal did my best] to make havoc of it and destroy it.

14 And [you have heard how] I outstripped many of the men of my own generation among the people of my race in <u>[my advancement in study</u> <u>and observance of the laws of]</u> Judaism, so extremely enthusiastic and zealous I was for the traditions of my ancestors.

<u>15 But when He, Who had chosen and set me apart [even] before I was</u> born and had called me by His grace (His undeserved favor and blessing), saw fit and was pleased

16 To reveal (unveil, disclose) His Son within me so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles (the non-Jewish world) as the glad tidings (Gospel), immediately <u>I did not confer with flesh and blood</u> [did not consult or counsel with any frail human being or communicate with anyone].

Paul was telling them I was deceived so I was shutting down the Truth, I was trying to gain popularity with the religious leaders (my religion). Jesus called out the religious leaders as well in this Beast/Roman Empire (government and religion against followers of Christ or the Word).

John 12:42-44 AMPC

42 And yet [in spite of all this] many even of the leading men (the authorities and the nobles) believed and trusted in Him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, <u>for fear that [if they should</u> <u>acknowledge Him] they would be expelled from the synagogue:</u>

43 For they loved the approval and the praise and the glory that come from men [instead of and] more than the glory that comes from God.

[They valued their credit with men more than their credit with God.] 44 But Jesus loudly declared, The one who believes in Me does not [only] believe in and trust in and rely on Me, but [in believing in Me he believes] in Him Who sent Me.

They were afraid of being thrown out of their church (religion) and not climbing the ranks in their religion. Remember, Paul was exiled and the religious leaders wanted to kill him and they stoned Stephen for speaking prophecy that was foretold in the Old Testament had happened. Godly leadership is not afraid to speak the Truth nor does it desire to climb the ranks in their religion by not speaking or twisting God's Word. Godly leadership will speak the truth regardless of position in their denomination, their friend group in ministry, the elder or deacon board or out of fear of not being liked by the attendees of the church.

The End Times leadership that is required by God to sound the alarm will only speak what God tells them to and not delete the commands or be faithless like the 10 spies we read about in Exodus chapters 13 and 14 or twist the truth in order to make it palatable. That is called watering down in today's church culture but God's Word calls it a sin or missing the mark. When a pastor, preacher or teacher does not speak about or twists the truth about: sin, judgment, righteousness and the things to come (the order of events), it will result in that pastor or spiritual leader and the people who listen not entering into the Promised Land.

<u>Numbers 13 AMPC</u>

1 AND THE Lord said to Moses,

2 Send men to explore and scout out [for yourselves] the land of Canaan, which I give to the Israelites....

From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader or head among them.

<u>3 So Moses by the command of the Lord sent</u> scouts from the Wilderness of Paran, all of them men who were heads of the Israelites.

25 And they returned from scouting out the land after forty days.

26 They came to Moses and Aaron and to all the Israelite congregation in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh, <u>and brought them word,</u> <u>and</u> <u>showed them the land's fruit.</u>

27 They told Moses, We came to the land to which you sent us; surely it flows with milk and honey. This is its fruit.

28 **<u>But</u>** the people who dwell there are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; moreover, there we saw the sons of Anak [of great stature and courage]. (These are the reasons we don't believe God's Word is true based on: our reasoning, our education - Bible college or religion.)

Caleb's response...

30 Caleb quieted the people before Moses, (quieting their doubts) and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; we are well able to conquer it. 31 But his fellow scouts said, We are not able to go up against the people [of Canaan], for they are stronger than we are.

32 So they brought the Israelites an evil report of the land which they <u>had scouted out, saying</u>. The land through which we went to spy it out is a land that devours its inhabitants. And all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature.

Numbers 13:32 GNT

32 So they spread a false report among the Israelites about the land they had explored. They said, "That land doesn't even produce enough to feed the people who live there. Everyone we saw was very tall,

Last week I read to you from 2 Timothy which is where we will be spending much of our time in part 6. We have learned about the percentage or "many" pastors as Jesus said would lead many astray or deceive many by abandoning the truth (deleting or twisting) God's Word.

Matthew 24:5 AMPC

5 <u>For many will come in (on the strength of) My name</u> [[a]appropriating the name which belongs to Me], saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), <u>and they will lead many astray.</u>

John 1:1 AMPC 1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word ([a]Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God [b]Himself.

Remember, a little leaven spoils it all...

Galatians 5:9 AMPC

9 A little leaven (a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers) leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church].

Paul said earlier on in his letter to the church in Galatians...

Galatians 6:7-9 AMPC

7 Not that there is [or could be] any other [genuine Gospel], but <u>there</u> <u>are [obviously] some who are troubling and disturbing and</u> <u>bewildering you [[f]with a different kind of teaching which they offer</u> <u>as a gospel] and want to pervert and distort the Gospel of Christ (the</u> <u>Messiah) [into something which it absolutely is not].</u>

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to and different from that which we preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

9 As we said before, so I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel different from or contrary to that which you received [from us], let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

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Paul was concerned because the church was listening to false teaching and preaching about: sin, judgment, righteousness and the "things" to come or the order of events at the Time of the End. They were listening to false teaching regarding when the Rapture would take place and what you must do to escape the 7 year Tribulation. God's Word said that false teaching was a sin.

Before Paul would send anyone out to preach and teach and essentially say, "I'm with Paul", they all had to be in agreement with what God's Word said so as not to confuse the people with false and deceiving instructions that would impact their eternity.

Paul called out Peter for changing what God's Word said. Peter was deceived and in error and had to be corrected. The very ones who were once preaching the truth got off track, got swept up into the popularity of itching ear religious myths. Barnabas was even being enticed to start preaching and teaching like them... this is how strong of a pull that the majority or "many" can have in regards to swerving from the truth.

Paul's writings to the Church was in response to: did we miss the Rapture? when will it happen? what are the signs so we don't miss the Rapture of the Church and go through the 7 year Tribulation?

Jesus was asked by His disciples when His return (rapture) would take place as well. Notice He didn't say 'none of your business'... He didn't say 'it's no big deal'... He didn't say 'let's not major on the minors'... He said I command you to know the signs to escape all these things, all 7 years of the Tribulation. There's no signs to know other than the 7 year peace treaty if it's a "mid-trib" or "post-trib" end of the 7 year Tribulation... that is false teaching. In addition, to say there is no rapture or it already happened is false teaching and the Bible calls it all a sin to speak contrary to God's Word regarding the Rapture of the Church.

Here is just one example of Paul answering the question and addressing the issue of the Rapture of the Church in 1 Corinthians 15. The same questions and false teaching is taking place in today's Church. Paul does not give his opinion, Paul does not give into the false teaching he learned from the Sanhedrin with his seminary degree. He gives specific answers throughout the Epistles as all the New and Old Testament writers do. Paul calls out those preachers and teachers who say it's "mid trib" or 42 months after the 7 year peace treaty is signed or at the end of the 7 year Tribulation as false teachers and deceivers.

Paul knows there is false teaching going on...

Galatians 1:6-16 AMPC

7...but there are [obviously] some who are troubling and disturbing and bewildering you [[f]with a different kind of teaching which they offer as a gospel] and want to pervert and distort the Gospel of Christ (the Messiah) [into something which it absolutely is not].

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to and different from that which we preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

9 As we said before, so I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel different from or contrary to that which you received [from us], let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

<u>10 Now am I trying to win the favor of men, or of God? Do I seek to</u> <u>please men? If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be</u> <u>a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah).</u>

In this passage below in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul urges those in Corinth who deny Christian Rapture/resurrection to accept what is true. Paul warns all of them not to be deceived by those who don't believe in the Rapture/resurrection.

<u>1 Corinthians 15:33 AMPC</u>

33 Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.

He is quoting a popular phrase of the day when he says "bad company ruins good morals." and by using that sentiment, Paul is endorsing it. There are distinct, spiritual dangers to associating with those who are out of sync with God's Word. The Rapture is addressed continuously in the New Testament and its importance of when it will take place.

In chapter 5, Paul warned the Corinthians not to associate with other believers who practice various kinds of immorality (1 Corinthians 5:11). He echoes that instruction again here in the form of this proverb. Spending time with people who continually proclaim falsehood including falsehood about the Rapture or resurrection of believers and when it will take place, has a way of wearing down even the most faithful follower of Christ. The result of loosening one's grip on right belief inevitably leads to loosening one's moral convictions as well. It might not result in wholesale apostasy, but it can be damaging and may lead others to their doom.

Paul tells you and I, in the Latter Days or Time of the End what to watch out for regarding false teaching, why we need the promised Holy Spirit, the timing of the Rapture and instructions to the Pastor on the condition of the Church and how they must preach and prepare themselves for the "great apostasy" or falling away from or departing from the TRUTH.

Apostasy Defined:

(Greek: a defection, to depart)...

1. An abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith or religion.

- 2. The desertion from a party to which one has adhered.
- 3. An abscess.

Abscess defined: a swollen area within body tissue, containing an accumulation of pus.

Pride defined: Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.

Note: another word for swollen with pride: puffed-up, arrogant, egotistic, puffy...

<u>2 Timothy 2 AMPC</u>

1 So you, my son, be strong (strengthened inwardly) in the grace (spiritual blessing) that is [to be found only] in Christ Jesus.

2 And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also.

3 Take [with me] your share of the hardships and suffering [which you are called to endure] as a good (first-class) soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No soldier when in service gets entangled in the enterprises of [civilian] life; his aim is to satisfy and please the one who enlisted him.

5 And if anyone enters competitive games, he is not crowned unless he competes lawfully (fairly, according to the rules laid down).

6 [It is] the hard-working farmer [who labors to produce] who must be the first partaker of the fruits.

7 Think over these things I am saying [understand them and grasp their application], for the Lord will grant you full insight and understanding in everything.

8 Constantly keep in mind Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] risen from the dead, [as the prophesied King] descended from David, according to the good news (the Gospel) that I preach.

9 For that [Gospel] I am suffering affliction and even wearing chains like a criminal. But the Word of God is not chained or imprisoned!

10 Therefore I [am ready to] persevere and stand my ground with patience and endure everything for the sake of the elect [God's chosen], so that they too may obtain [the] salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with [the reward of] eternal glory.

11 The saying is sure and worthy of confidence: If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him.

12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny and disown and reject Him, He will also deny and disown and reject us.

13 If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself.

<u>14 Remind [the people] of these facts and [solemnly] charge them in</u> <u>the presence of the Lord to avoid petty controversy over words, which</u> <u>does no good but upsets and undermines the faith of the hearers.</u>

15 Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

<u>16 But avoid all empty (vain, useless, idle) talk, for it will lead people</u> into more and more ungodliness.

17 And their teaching [will devour; it] will eat its way like cancer or spread like gangrene. So it is with Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 Who have missed the mark and swerved from the truth by arguing that the resurrection has already taken place. They are undermining the faith of some.

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19 But the firm foundation of (laid by) God stands, sure and unshaken, bearing this seal (inscription): The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names [himself by] the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it.

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also [utensils] of wood and earthenware, and some for honorable and noble [use] and some for menial and ignoble [use].

21 So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.

22 Shun youthful lusts and flee from them, and aim at and pursue righteousness (all that is virtuous and good, right living, conformity to the will of God in thought, word, and deed); [and aim at and pursue] faith, love, [and] peace (harmony and concord with others) in fellowship with all [Christians], who call upon the Lord out of a pure heart.

23 But refuse (shut your mind against, have nothing to do with) trifling (ill-informed, unedifying, stupid) controversies over ignorant questionings, for you know that they foster strife and breed quarrels.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome (fighting and contending). Instead, he must be kindly to everyone and mild-tempered [preserving the bond of peace]; <u>he must be a skilled and suitable</u> <u>teacher, patient and forbearing and willing to suffer wrong.</u>

25 He must correct his opponents with courtesy and gentleness, in the hope that God may grant that they will repent and come to know the Truth [that they will perceive and recognize and become accurately acquainted with and acknowledge it].

26 And that they may come to their senses [and] escape out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, [henceforth] to do <u>His [God's] will.</u>

2 Timothy 3:1-9 AMPC

1 But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].

Note: Perilous times translated: spiritually difficult times

2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane.

3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.

4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with selfconceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God.

5 For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. <u>Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].</u>

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6 For among them are those who worm their way into homes and <u>captivate</u> silly and weak-natured and spiritually dwarfed women, loaded down with [the burden of their] sins [and easily] swayed and led away by various evil desires and seductive impulses.

7 [These weak women will listen to anybody who will teach them]; <u>they</u> <u>are forever inquiring and getting information, but are never able to</u> <u>arrive at a recognition and knowledge of the Truth.</u>

8 Now just as [a]Jannes and Jambres were hostile to and resisted Moses, so these men also are hostile to and oppose the Truth. They have depraved and distorted minds, and are reprobate and counterfeit and to be rejected as far as the faith is concerned.

<u>9 But they will not get very far, for their rash folly will become obvious</u> to everybody, as was that of those [magicians mentioned].

Note: according to Jewish historical writing Jannes and Jambres were the Egyptian court magicians who opposed Moses in Exodus chapter 7.

Exodus 7:1-12 AMPC

1 The Lord said to Moses, Behold, I make you as God to Pharaoh [to declare My will and purpose to him]; and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.

2 You shall speak all that I command you, and Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his land.

3 And I will make Pharaoh's heart stubborn and hard, and multiply My signs, My wonders, and miracles in the land of Egypt.

4 But Pharaoh will not listen to you, and I will lay My hand upon Egypt and bring forth My hosts, My people the Israelites, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

5 The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord when I stretch forth My hand upon Egypt and bring out the Israelites from among them.

6 And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded them.

7 Now Moses was 80 years old and Aaron 83 years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.

8 And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron,

9 When Pharaoh says to you, Prove [your authority] by a miracle, then tell Aaron, Throw your rod down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.

10 <u>So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the Lord had</u> <u>commanded</u>; Aaron threw down his rod before Pharaoh and his serv<u>ants, and it became a serpent.</u>

<u>11 Then Pharaoh called for the wise men [skilled in magic and divination] and the sorcerers (wizards and jugglers). And they also, these magicians of Egypt, did similar things with their enchantments and secret arts.</u>

12 For they cast down every man his rod and they became serpents; but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Divination defined:

1. The act of divining; a foretelling future events, or discovering things secret or obscure, by the aid of superior beings, or by other than human means. 2. the practice of seeking knowledge of the future or the unknown by supernatural means.

This "spiritual" foretelling of events is referenced in the Old and New Testament as: sorcery or sorcerers, magic or magicians, secret arts etc. These satanic spiritual workings/leaders were used by kings or government to deceive many as power from God.

Revelation 13:13-14 AMPC

13 He (False Prophet - religion) performs great signs (startling miracles), even making fire fall from the sky to the earth in men's sight. 14 And because of the signs (miracles) which he is allowed to perform in the presence of the [first] beast, he deceives those who inhabit the earth..

Back to 2 Timothy and Paul's instruction to Timothy...

<u>2 Timothy 3:10-17 AMPC</u>

10 Now you have closely observed and diligently followed my teaching, conduct, purpose in life, faith, patience, love, steadfastness,

11 Persecutions, sufferings—such as occurred to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, persecutions I endured, but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 Indeed all who delight in piety and are determined to live a devoted and godly life in Christ Jesus will meet with persecution [will be made to suffer because of their religious stand].

13 But wicked men and imposters will go on from bad to worse, <u>deceiving and leading astray others and being deceived and led astray</u> <u>themselves.</u>

<u>14 But as for you, continue to hold to the things that you have learned</u> <u>and of which you are convinced, knowing from whom you learned</u> [them].

15 And how from your childhood you have had a knowledge of and been acquainted with the sacred Writings, which are able to instruct you and give you the understanding for salvation which comes through faith in Christ Jesus [through the [b]leaning of the entire human personality on God in Christ Jesus in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness].

16 Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action),

<u>17 So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well</u> <u>fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.</u>

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